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Growing older, planning ahead:

Improving support for older people with learning disabilities and behaviours that challenge others, family and professional carers, and end of life care planning for carers

Briefing paper

Work Package 5 - To co-produce actionable recommendations for commissioners and providers, resources and decision-aids for carers and people with learning disabilities with behaviours that challenge others, and online training materials about care in later life.

Introduction

This is part of a wider programme of work, 'Improving the support for older people with learning disabilities and behaviours that challenge others, family and professional carers, and end of life care planning for carers.' It is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR 129491). Ethical approval (in process).

Please see Briefing sheet 'Overview' for an overview of the whole project.

Project website: wels.open.ac.uk/research/growing-older-planning-ahead

Objective of Work Package 5

In WP5 we will work with a range of people to produce and disseminate workable recommendations to improve support for older people with learning disabilities and family carers. Those we will work with include older people with learning disabilities, family carers, self-advocacy groups, social workers, support workers, and people who provide, pay for and make sure services are good.

Methods

Two co-production events will be held in Manchester and Oxford in collaboration with the British Association of Social Workers. These events will bring together a diverse group of carers, older people with learning disabilities, self-advocacy groups and other third sector organisations, social care providers, commissioners, social workers, local authority representatives and Advisory Group members. These will be live streamed and tweeted to enable engagement beyond attendees. Alternative arrangements will be made in the event of continuing COVID-19 related issues.

Findings, presented in easy read format to facilitate comprehensive engagement, will be presented followed by discussion around the issues that have arisen, potential barriers to implementation of changes identified, how to ensure effective dissemination and maximise the project pathways to impact. This process will also be cascaded to self-advocacy and carer groups across the UK. An easy read pack with a proposed session plan and feedback form will be circulated via the co-applicant network to generate engagement with the key audiences for our research. The proposed session plan of two hours will include a summary of the research and questions about key areas.

Timing

We plan to undertake this work in October and December 2022 (months 26 and 28).

Anticipated outputs

Actionable recommendations for commissioners and innovative dissemination plans for the uptake of the project outputs will be produced after the co-production events. We will also setup/produce:

- A free course for family carers on learning disability, ageing and behaviours that challenge others, hosted on The Open University's OpenLearn platform with up to 3 hours of learning material, including interactive multi-media content, reflective exercises and key findings from the research.
- A free course on learning disability, ageing and behaviours, targeted at practitioners working alongside family carers and people with learning disabilities with behaviours that challenge others as they age. The material will include short videos, practice guidance, podcasts, and links to the publications from the research. This course will comprise approximately 6 hours of learning, focusing on the law, examples of best practice, working through complex cases and advocating for more person-centred outcomes within financial or commissioning constraints.
- A separate Continuous Professional Development Programme (CPD) developed specifically for social workers who have statutory duties to assess and plan care for people with learning disabilities and carers under the Care Act 2014, and to safeguard people in the community. This will be hosted by the British Association of Social Workers.
- A forum for support staff to share best practice hosted by The Open University and linked to their Carer Research and Knowledge Exchange Network (CAREN).

The team

Work package lead

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Co-investigators and researchers

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